

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. This amendment is supported by Applicants' specification at least at, paragraph [0036]. Claims 6, 10 and 11 are amended to correct informalities. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Evans and Gray at the interview held November 21, 2008 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to the title of the application. The title is amended, as agreed during the personal interview, to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claim 1. Claim 1 is amended, as agreed during the personal interview, to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP-A-2002-304102 to Hara et al. (hereinafter "Hara"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, control means which, controls driving of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means such that, in a course of the continuous image formation, driving of the photoreceptor drum, the developing means and the transfer means are halted at least once. Hara teaches at, e.g., paragraph [0042] and Drawing 1, "[w]hen carrying out continuous execution of the image recording operation, whenever it reaches said number Nb-Nd of continuous recording pictures, a job is interrupted

and empty rotation of rotating member Fh+Fp for fixing is performed. Therefore, number Nb-Nd of consecutive images is a numerical value required to perform said empty rotation. In the inside of an empty turnover period, rotation of toner image support (PR, B) stops. As discussed during the personal interview, Hara does not teach any other element of the imaging device stops.

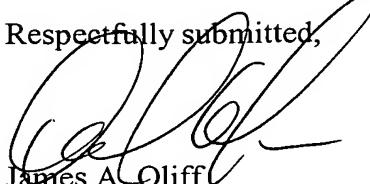
Claims 6 and 10 recite, among other features, specification means for specifying whether a type of the image recording medium is a first type of predetermined regular size, or a second type of non-regular size, other than the regular size. Hara teaches at, *e.g.*, paragraph [0048] "in ST8 it is judged whether the record sheet S is a regular paper. . . In ST10, it is judged whether the record sheet S is bonded to paper. . . In ST12, it is judged whether the record sheet S is the pasteboard 1." However, as discussed during the personal interview, regular paper, bond paper and pasteboard are different weights and construction of paper, which may be obtained in various sizes. Hara does not teach specification means for specifying whether a type of image recording medium is a first type of predetermined regular size or a second type of non-regular size.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Hara cannot reasonably be considered to teach the combinations of all of the features positively recited in claims 1, 6 and 10. Further, Hara cannot reasonably be considered to teach the combinations of all of the features recited claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 13-15, for at least the dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hara are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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